

I am very concerned that local voices are being locked out of telecommunications, both radio and TV. As ownership becomes increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few large companies and as public radio and television become increasingly national in programming, there is almost no opportunity for local voices to be heard. As a public resource, part of the spectrum needs to be made available for community radio and TV. In our community, Boise, ID, several groups have been interested in participating in such local broadcasting but are locked out by commercial interests and the local NPR (which I have always supported financially). As digital technology increases the spectrum, part of it should be reserved for non-profit, community-based broadcasting.

I have been active in Public Access Television, but as direct satellite broadcasting has encroached on cable's penetration, a large percentage of the community is unable to access public access. Either low power over air broadcast or must-carry rules for satellites would allow us to truly serve the entire community.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Peter Lutze
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